

Congressional Record

Pathway at Heritage Park Groundbreaking with Habitat for Humanity

Hon. Sharice Davids
of Kansas

Monday, January 8, 2023

Mr. Speaker,

I rise today to celebrate the beginning of an innovative project that will address the critical need for affordable homeownership in the Johnson County, Kansas area.

With the support of volunteers, donors, and community partners, Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City (Habitat KC) builds and renovates homes to help families achieve their dream of homeownership. Using American Rescue Plan Act funding, Pathway at Heritage Park will be Habitat KC's first pocket neighborhood development and first time employing the community land trust model. Under this model, Habitat KC ensures the homes built remain affordable, avoiding skyrocketing housing costs that put home ownership out of reach for too many.

The importance of this project to our community cannot be understated. United Community Service of Johnson County estimates that 40 percent of renters and 20 percent of homeowners in Johnson County are housing cost-burdened, paying more than 30 percent of their income on housing. At Pathway at Heritage Park, mortgages will be capped at 30 percent of monthly income.

Additionally, about 45 percent of the local workforce commutes from other communities due to the lack of affordable housing. This project is especially important as the Panasonic and Walmart beef processing plants are projected to bring more than 4,500 new jobs to the Johnson County area.

I want to thank Habitat KC, Pathway Community Church, and all those that have contributed to making the groundbreaking of Pathway at Heritage Park a success. I look forward to this project making the dream of homeownership a reality for so many.